WAVZ NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 1 AUGUST 1987

Welcome all you West Autralian VZ Users and our Eastern States neighbours to the first inaugural issue of the WAVZ newsleter for all VZ owners. Our wonderfull little machine has now been going since around 1983 and has come a long way since then. It appeared virtualy as a toy or even a games machine to a lot of people but you only have to look into a little closer to realize that it is quite a powerfull little computer, for it's size and cost. And when you have the tremendous backup of user groups such as the Hunter Valley VZ User's Group (HVVZUG) in New South Wales and LE'VZ in Queensland and all the other very good User Groups in these states and New Zealand (their names can be supplied on request). you have a realy very good little computer. It also keeps you close to the "grass roots" of machine code (M/C or M/L) and all the other ins and outs of the VZ. I hope, in the future to provide some small basic instruction on ways in which the VZ works (very basic of course). And maybe we could get some help from Bob Kitch to this end. Bob as you may not know has written quite a few articles for HVVZUG, LE'VZ and AUSTRALIAN ELECTRONICS MONTHLY so he knows quite a bit about the VZ and has offered his help to those in need. Address supplied on request.

I am hoping this newsletter will give WAVZ a bit of a boost.

BEGINNERS:

The VZ-200 has a 6K memory with 2K extra for the video screen. The VZ-300 has 16K, also with 2K video. At this point I should mention that 1K of memory does not mean 1,000 8 bit bytes, it means 1,024 bytes. This is a standard which has developed from the use of 10 bit positions even though 4, 8, 16 and 32 bit positions are in general use. A binary number such as 1010011101 has 10 bit positins, a bit being a BInary Digit which is represented as a "1" or a "0". A byte always represents 8 bits, and ssometimes, but rarely, you may come across a 4 bit nibble.

If any of you users need any help with your VZ, myself or several others here would be only too happy to give all the assistance required and as I said we have the backup of quite a number of User Groups over East.

EPSON TYPE PRINTERS:

There are quite a few Epson type printers on the market, I have a BMC-BX80 printer which no-one has ever heard of but they are very common in the East,(0F Australia of course-sheesh!) and the same mechanism is manufactured for the Amust DT-80, Compaq, and Compumate and quite a few others so if you have any of these, you are not alone. If you receive John D'Alton's LE'VZ and have copy August #17 then refer to page 10 right column and you will see that John acknowledges the various printers people have. Unfortunately he states that only

one person he knows of has a BX-8Ø (maybe thats me!). But if you have any trouble with interfacing your Epson type printer to your VZ or if it does odd things or just does not do what it ought to do the please get in touch with Graham or me and we will endeaver to answer your problems or get in touch with somene who does, and believe me there are many. (who are able to help).
One thing I was going to say regarding the DSE Editor assembler is that the Epson type printers will not print any single solitary thing when you want to (L)ist you M/C program so I have looked into the program (breaking the B: load first and then doing a bit of a fiddle to make it print out at will. You see the DSE Editor assembler appears to be designed for the printer plotter which uses the M/C command OUT (ØØ),a to send data to the printer - a being the accumulater containing the character to be outputed. The BX-8Ø however, requires two commands, namely;

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OUT (ØE),A
OUT (ØD),A
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ØE and ØD are 14 and 13 respectively and can be used in BASIC for sending commands to the printer.

Well folks It's time to wind up and I would like to remind you that this NEWSLETTER is a sample, more or less so I would welcome all criticism regarding things that you feel are wrong or things that could be added in or whatever.
Any correspondence of this nature should be addressed to the editor. Remember we are starting from small beginnings (that's obvious isn't it?)

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PRINTED ON THE
DSE WORD PROCESSOR
(DISK ADAPTED)